

Minutes for the ABAC meeting of February 18, 2015

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Scott Smith, Christopher Tonkin, Doug Greenfield, Phil Goff, Ron Sender and Stephan Miller. Also in attendance were Officer Steve Conroy, Rod Holland and Joey Glushko.

*The meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm.

*The minutes for the January 21 meeting were accepted after some corrections were made.

Introductions and greetings were made all around the table.

Winter Social to be held at the Common Ground Pub on March 4 at 7 pm. Christopher asked Phil to join him in evaluating the Common Ground meeting room before the Winter Social. Phil then suggested that we dig out the bike racks in front of the restaurant. Many of us volunteered to help dig this weekend. We confirmed with Officer Conroy that there will be a representative from the Arlington Bicycle Police on the panel.

Roadway Marking Guidelines for Board of Selectmen (BoS) approval and Complete Streets Program.

Scott told us that the issue of the Roadway Marking Guidelines has not progressed. The DPW would like to have another working group meeting before the Guidelines are approved by TAC and the BoS. He also told us that the Complete Streets issue is progressing. There will be a warrant article accepting the state Complete Streets Program that will be voted on by Town Meeting in the spring.

Signalizing the Lake St./Bikeway intersection. The issue of the Bikeway/Lake St. intersection was presented to the BoS by (TAC). The Selectmen had a lengthy discussion about the signalization and then postponed the issue for further discussion at a later date. Stephan asked if there is any difference in traffic on Lake St. now that there is no traffic on the Bikeway. Scott answered that due to recent weather conditions, it is impossible to make any conclusions. Rod felt that the bikeway is not a significant factor in the traffic on Lake St. Scott did not agree. Scott said that TAC will again review the proposal next month.

Gold's Gym parking lot access to the Bikeway. Joey told us that the handicapped and bike parking conflict is resolved in the parking lot in front of the gym. The issue of the non-sanctioned entrance to the Bikeway is a complicated one. This entrance was constructed by the owner of the parking lot rather than by Gold's Gym so liability is not clear. The BoS will review the matter in the spring.

Tax bill insert about safely walking and bicycling at night. Joey told us that the insert will go out with the yearly excise tax bill at the end of February.

Trash receptacles along the Bikeway. Joey told us that the Trash Receptacle Working Group is in the process of selecting the appropriate receptacles for open spaces around Town. She told us the Bikeway has priority and the barrels should be in place by the end of April.

News and New topics

Bike user counts at different locations. We decided to add the Rt. 16 and Mass. Ave location to the bike counts that ABAC does several times a year at the intersection of the Bikeway and Arlington Center.

ABAC/COBWEB safety awareness program visiting the middle school and the high school. Officer Conroy told us that the police department is excited about this program. It will probably be given first at the High School. Phil suggested that we coordinate with MassBike in doing this outreach because they have a prepared curriculum. Ron reminded us that there are new laws which govern auto/bicycle interactions and that some of this may be already taught in drivers training classes.

Bikeway Cleanup Stephan has decided to take on organizing the Bikeway Cleanup again this year. He would like to have more support from ABAC. He told us that Terry Dash is going to assist with

connections to the middle and high schools. Joey suggested that Stephan place a notice of the event in the Arlington Shopper. The date of the Cleanup has been set for Saturday, April 18 with the rain date being Sunday the 19.

Bike Week Breakfast. The question was posed as to whether we have the resources to put on this event. Christopher suggested that we try tapping Trader Joe's, The Kickstand Café, Gail Ann's or Whole Foods as sponsors. We discussed different locations and methods of sponsorship. We put this item on the agenda for the March meeting.

BIKEArlington Tour. We decided on May 17 at 9:30 in the morning as the date for the Tour this year. We will announce it at the Winter Social on March 4.

I Can Shine Bicycle Camp. Jack told us that the Camp is looking for volunteers to teach people with disabilities how to ride a two wheel bicycle. The camp will take place the week of April 20.

Reappointments of ABAC board members. We had a discussion about recruiting new members. Some of the board have been on the committee for many years and would be willing to step down in favor of enthusiastic new members.

Lastly, we discussed the recent plowing of the Bikeway. The Bikeway was not plowed after the last storm. Stephan and David White emailed the DPW to complain and found that the DPW was unaware that the Bikeway had not been plowed. The plowing was completed a few days after the emails were sent.

*The meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm

*Notes that a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller